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New dean of pharmacy announced

BY AILSA FERGUSON

Professor Henry Mann, associate dean at the University of Minnesota College of Pharmacy, has been appointed the next dean of the Leslie Dan Faculty of Pharmacy for a five-year term effective July 1. He succeeds Professor Wayne Hindmarsh, who has led the Faculty since 1998.

"The opportunity to join the University of Toronto and lead the Leslie Dan Faculty of Pharmacy is incredibly exciting," said Mann. "Both the university and its faculty of pharmacy are internationally recognized for excellence and the resources available here are exceptional. I very much look forward to working with the faculty and with the practitioners in Ontario to ensure that our graduates provide the best pharmaceutical care for patients anywhere in the world and that our research provides breakthroughs in health care."

Mann holds bachelor and doctor of pharmacy degrees from the University of Kentucky College of Pharmacy where he completed an American Society of Health-System Pharmacists residency program. He then joined the faculty of the University of Minnesota College of Pharmacy where he is currently a full professor and associate dean for clinical affairs. He is a fellow of the American Society of Health-System Pharmacists, the American College of Clinical Pharmacy and the American College of Critical Care Medicine.



Professor Henry Mann

Mann's research has focused on the application of pharmacology and pharmacotherapy principles to critically ill patients and he is founding director of the interdisciplinary Center for Excellence in Critical Care at the University of Minnesota. The center's mission is to develop and evaluate new therapies and devices that will improve survival and the quality of life for critically ill patients. Mann also founded the Partnership for Excellence in Critical Care, a national network

• • • NEW ON PAGE 4

HOPE SPRINGS ETERNAL



Cool temperatures were no deterrent for this robin foraging for food among the squills and the lilac trees on the garden in front of the Faculty of Law.

CAZ ZVATKAUSKAS

Three win 2009 President's Teaching Awards

BY ANJUM NAYYAR

Three University of Toronto faculty members, known among their peers and students for their excellence in teaching, are this year's recipients of the President's Teaching Award and accompanying membership in the U of T Teaching Academy.

Andy Dicks, a senior lecturer in chemistry, Professor **Martin Shreiber** of medicine and Professor **Nick Mount** of English are being recognized for their career commitment to teaching excellence.

The three award winners were recommended by a committee chaired by the provost. The selection committee is made up of six internal U of T members and up to two members from other universities.

Their appointments to the Teaching Academy were approved by Academic Board at its March 26 meeting. The winners will be called upon periodically to discuss teaching-related matters and to advise the vice-president and provost and the Office of Teaching Advancement. They may also be asked to deliver an annual public lecture or a convocation address. Each winner will receive a stipend of \$10,000 a year for five years to further his work.

"Having this award I think encourages excellence in teaching over a period of time and it's really an encouragement for those who go above and beyond and to do things in the future as well," said Dicks, who has been teaching for 10 years.

• • • THREE ON PAGE 4

Enrolment doubled since 1974

BY TAMMY THORNE

A significant increase in professional program master's degree students and modest growth in the international student population were among the hallmarks of enrolment at U of T in 2008-09, Professor **Safwat Zaky**, vice-provost (planning and budget), told Business Board at its March 23 meeting.

In presenting the annual enrolment report, Zaky said that enrolment has doubled at U of T over the past 35 years, including a one per cent increase this year over 2007-08. A total of 74,921 students are enrolled at U of T in 2008-09: 66,249 full time and 8,672 part time. The number of international students also increased by about six per cent during the year, to 7,866 from 7,380. They now represent 10.4 per cent of undergraduates and 11.8 per cent of graduate students.

The majority of international undergraduate students come from Asia (68 per cent), followed by the

Americas (11 per cent), Europe (eight per cent) and the Middle East (seven per cent). At the graduate level, Asian students constitute 37 per cent of the international student body, with many also coming from the Americas (29 per cent), Europe (16 per cent) and the Middle East (15 per cent).

"Top universities have always been a magnet to international students and we are no exception. Although in Toronto we already have a very diverse ethnic mix, having students come directly from other parts of the world is still important," Zaky said. "The wide range of perspectives they bring enrich both the informal encounters as well as the formal debate on campus."

Zaky noted that U of T's international student tuition fees, significantly lower than those of its American counterparts, are one reason that U of T is a desirable destination.

In addition to current enrolment

• • • ENROLMENT ON PAGE 11

LETTER FROM THE EDITOR

Cyberspace is ...

the newest communications frontier, and we at *the Bulletin* and the larger Strategic Communications Department continue to make forays into the online world in order to add new dimensions to the information we provide our community.

Most of you reading this column also receive the eBulletin (www.news.utoronto.ca/ebull/ebulletin-archives.html), our twice-weekly electronic summary of news and events at the university that allows faculty and staff to stay up to date on the latest happenings on our three campuses. Since its inauguration in September 2007, it has become a U of T communications fixture.

More recently, our department has taken advantage of the virtual world's popularity to revamp the U of T home-page (www.utoronto.ca) into a more user-friendly, readable tool and to reach out to prospective students using online videos with a Can You? campaign (<http://www.thisisuoft.utoronto.ca/youcan.htm>) that features some of the university's most exciting research and the researchers behind it.



Now, *the Bulletin* and the eBulletin are working towards enriching our coverage with audio slideshows, and eventually, videos. Writer **Anjum Nayyar**, a former television reporter, and new media designer **Johnny Guatto** have teamed up to experiment with a more visual medium. The result of their collaboration is a slideshow with audio accompaniment showing life at the 89 Chestnut residence (www.youtube.com/watch?v=tk6m3_sQrRs). We feature the residence in a story on page 7 and concurrently, we included the slideshow link in today's issue of the eBulletin. In a cross-campus collaboration, it also features music composed by Dean Russell Hartenberger of the Faculty of Music. The result is a richer experience for our readers that allows them to draw on both print and digital media.

Our goal is to create a slideshow or a video to accompany each issue of *the Bulletin* and to share these items with anyone who has use for them. For instance, the folks at 89 Chestnut may want to refer prospective students to this link or students who live there now may want to show it to their friends. Who knows where these links will take us?

We hope you'll enjoy following us on our journey into the wired world. Information comes in many forms and we want you to savour them all.

Regards,

Elaine

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ROTMAN SCHOOL OF MANAGEMENT

Professor Avi Goldfarb of marketing and a colleague from the Sloan School are the winners of one of 11 research awards from the Google and WPP Marketing Research Awards program. The supported projects represent the first round of awards in a three-year program that will see WPP and Google commit up to \$4.6 million to support research into how online media influences consumer behaviour, attitudes and decision-making. Goldfarb and his colleague received the award for their project, Does Internet Advertising Help Established Brands or Niche ("long tail") Brands More? The awards were announced March 19.

FACULTY OF MEDICINE

Professor Patricia Brubaker of physiology is the winner of the Graduate Student Mentorship Award of the Faculty of Medicine, recognizing sustained contributions to graduate student mentorship; Professor **Leah Cowan** of molecular genetics has been selected to receive the Early Career Excellence Award, acknowledging outstanding contributions to the training and experience of graduate students; and Professor **Carla Johnson** of speech language pathology will receive the Sustained Contribution to Excellence in Graduate Teaching Award, recognizing sustained contributions to any aspect of graduate teaching. The graduate teaching awards will be presented to the winners May 19 at the Faculty of Medicine's annual Educational Achievement Celebration.

Professor Chi-Ming Chow of medicine is the recipient of this year's Association of Faculties of Medicine of Canada (AFMC) John Ruedy Award for Innovation in Medical Education, given to an individual or group who has developed innovative print materials, electronic learning aids or other teaching aids. Chow will receive the award during the Canadian Conference on Medical Education May 2 to 6 being held in Edmonton, Alta.

Professors Phyllis Glanc of medical imaging, **Daniel Panisko** of medicine and **Brian Simmons** of pediatrics are this year's Faculty of Medicine winners of the Canadian Association for Medical Education 2009 Certificate of Merit Awards. The Certificate of Merit Awards promote, recognize and reward faculty committed to medical education in Canadian medical schools. Recipients will have made a contribution to medical education considered to be valuable within their medical schools including teaching, evaluation, educational leadership and course co-ordination. The winners will be recognized at the association's annual general meeting to be held May 2 to 6 in Edmonton, Alta.

Professor Michael Gordon of medicine has been selected to receive the 2008 Mentor of the Year Award, Ontario region, by the Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons of Canada. The regional award was established to acknowledge fellows who have demonstrated a long-standing commitment to the welfare of patients and to high standards of excellence in clinical care and ethical conduct. Each recipient will not only have been a role model to residents and/or fellows but his or her mentorship will

AWARDS & HONOURS

have had a long-lasting impact on their careers.

Professor Jeffrey Meyer of psychiatry is the winner of the Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons of Canada Medal in Medicine, recognizing original work by young clinical investigators. Meyer's research focuses on understanding the neurochemical basis of depression and the neurochemical effects of antidepressant treatment. Through this work, Meyer developed a new leading monoamine theory of depression.

Professor Bruce Pollock of psychiatry has been selected as the recipient of the American Psychiatric Association 2009 Jack Weinberg Memorial Award. The award, established in memory of Weinberg, a geriatric psychiatrist and a past president of the APA, honours a psychiatrist who has demonstrated special leadership or who has done outstanding work in clinical practice, training or research in geriatric psychiatry. Pollock will receive the award during the APA convocation in May.

Professor Ivan Silver of psychiatry has been selected to receive the Association of Faculties of Medicine of Canada's Award for Outstanding Contributions to Faculty Development in Canada, recognizing an individual or group in Canada who has made an exceptional contribution in this area. Criteria focus on the breadth of the recipient's faculty development program, its national, regional or international impact and how the recipient has promoted the field of faculty development generally. Silver will receive the award during the Canadian Conference on Medical Education May 2 to 6, being held in Edmonton, Alta.

Professor Sarita Verma of family and community medicine is the co-winner of the Association of Faculties of Medicine of Canada's 2009 May Cohen Gender Equity Award, established to recognize outstanding effort or achievement of an individual program, department or school in improving the gender equity environment in academic medicine in Canada. Verma and her co-winner, Wilfreda Thurston of the University of Calgary, will receive the award during the Canadian Conference on Medical Education May 2 to 6, being held in Edmonton, Alta.

Lesley Wiesenfeld, a lecturer in the Department of Psychiatry, has been selected to receive the Irma Bland Award for Excellence in Teaching Residents by the American Psychiatric Association. Recipients are nominated by their respective departments and the award is given annually to APA members who have made outstanding and sustained contributions to resident education in psychiatry. Wiesenfeld will receive the award during the 2009 APA annual meeting May 16 to 21 in San Francisco, Calif.

UNIVERSITY OF TORONTO MISSISSAUGA

Professor Jonathan Weisberg of philosophy is the winner of Rutgers University's biannual Young Epistemologist Prize, given for the best essay in epistemology submitted to the Rutgers Epistemology Conference by a person with a PhD obtained within the past 10 years. Weisberg will present his essay, Bootstrapping in General, May 8 during the 2009 conference and it will be published (along with the invited papers) in *Philosophy and Phenomenological Research*.

COMPILED BY AILSA FERGUSON

The top and sidebar art on the front page is composed of blossoms photographed on King's College Circle.

U of T helps Gairdner Foundation celebrate 50 years

BY CATHERINE NGAI

The Gairdner Foundation, overseer of the prestigious Gairdner Awards for contributions to medical science and research, turns 50 in 2009, and the University of Toronto recently helped kick off a year of celebrations.

In recognition of the foundation's ongoing work, President **David Naylor** held a reception at his home for the foundation board and two of this year's Gairdner laureates, celebrating the university's long-standing partnership with the foundation. Attendees included Ontario's Minister of Research and Innovation, John Wilkinson, and other senior government officials, as well as senior health and bioscience researchers and representatives from all three campuses.

"We share tremendous pride in the work of the foundation," said Naylor. "It is a nationally iconic institution working to advance bioscience with a clear focus on excellence." He noted that the Gairdner Foundation presidents had all been chairs or deans of medicine at U of T, and that the relationship to the university had much in common with the relationship between the

Karolinska Institute and the Nobel Prize for Medicine.

Gairdner International Awards recognize three to five members of the international medical research community who have excelled in fundamental or translational research. Each award now comes with a \$100,000 prize, an increased sum made possible by a major grant (\$20M) from the federal government in 2008. More than 70 Gairdner laureates have gone on to win the Nobel prize.

The Gairdner Wightman Award has been given approximately every three years to a Canadian researcher who has shown substantial leadership in the medical field.

Many U of T researchers have numbered among the winners of both prizes. Among the most recent recipients, **Alan Bernstein**, a professor of molecular and medical genetics, earned a Gairdner Wightman Award in 2008 and **Endel Tulving**, professor emeritus of psychology, won a Gairdner International Award in 2005 for his path-breaking research on mechanisms of memory.

During the celebratory reception, Wilkinson offered a provincial birthday present to the Gairdner Foundation: a

\$600,000 grant to help support the symposia that the foundation will run this year, including outreach events to bring lectures by bioscience leaders to high school students and the general public. The minister said the Gairdner awards "raise the bar in Ontario" for global research and noted that many world-class breakthroughs happen locally.

Professor Emeritus **John Dirks**, president of the foundation, referred to the organization's illustrious history, but noted that its age didn't mean it would be resting on its laurels.

"Our awards are a great example of excellence, and they emphasize our commitment to look toward the future of science," he said.

In celebrating its 50th year, the foundation will hold symposia throughout the country, sharing the research of its laureates with the medical community and the general public. Here at the University of Toronto, high school students will also have the opportunity to attend a symposium at Convocation Hall in October.

It's an opportunity that Dr. Richard Losick, a 2009 laureate and distinguished professor of biology at Harvard



CATHERINE NGAI

President David Naylor lauds the work of the Gairdner Foundation during a 50th anniversary reception at his home as John Wilkinson, Ontario's minister of research and innovation, looks on.

University, is certain to relish. Losick is being recognized for his work on how gene transcription and asymmetric cell division lead to diversity in cell types. Losick is a strong advocate of teaching and nurturing future generations of scholars and a champion of undergraduate teaching.

"I believe that research and teaching go hand in hand," he said during the reception. "People often think that they are in competition, but I think I am a better scientist for being a teacher."

Also attending the reception

was David Sackett, professor emeritus of clinical epidemiology and biology at McMaster University, the 2009 winner of the Gairdner Wightman Award for his work in evidence-based medicine.

The other 2009 awardees are Kyoto University's Dr. Shinya Yamanaka for his work in embryonic stem cells; University of California's Dr. Peter Walter and Kyoto University's Dr. Kazutoshi Mori for their research in protein folding; and Stanford University's Dr. Lucy Shapiro for her work in cell diversity.

U of T investigation detects cyber espionage network

Since the Information Warfare Monitor (IWM) — a joint effort of Professor **Ron Deibert's** Citizen Lab at the University of Toronto and the SecDev Group in Ottawa — detected a cyber espionage network involving more than 1,295 compromised computers in 103 countries, worldwide media coverage has resulted.

As explained during a U of T new conference in late March, close to 30 per cent of the compromised computers are considered high value targets. They include the ministries of foreign affairs of Iran, Bangladesh, Latvia, Indonesia, Philippines, Brunei, Barbados and Bhutan; the embassies of India, South Korea, Indonesia, Romania, Cyprus, Malta, Thailand, Taiwan, Portugal, Germany and Pakistan; the ASEAN Secretariat, SAARC and the Asian Development Bank, news organizations and an unclassified computer located at NATO headquarters. The news conference was webcast live and the site has had more than 1,600 hits.

Meanwhile, Deibert and his colleagues continue to provide advice to others who believe their computers might be affected.

"We continue to pursue the consequences of our report with outreach to affected

parties and briefings to the policy and NGO communities," said Deibert, who teaches at the Munk Centre for International Studies. "We intend to follow the awareness generated by GhostNet with concerted efforts to draw the attention to the militarization of cyberspace and how we might

respond with arms control efforts. We hope Canada will be a centre of gravity for these efforts."

The report, entitled Tracking GhostNet: Investigating a Cyber Espionage Network, is a product of a two-phase 10-month investigation, consisting of fieldwork, technical scouting

and laboratory analysis. The research began by focusing on allegations of Chinese cyber espionage against the Tibetan community in exile and eventually led to a much wider network of compromised machines.

Investigators conducted field research in India, Europe and

North America.

During the second phase of the investigation, the data led to the discovery of insecure web-based interfaces to four control servers. The interfaces allow attacker(s) to send instructions to and receive data from compromised computers.

Vice-provostial portfolios restructured

BY ELAINE SMITH

Three professors have been named to fill the recently restructured vice-provostial portfolios for five-year terms effective July 1. Professors **Scott Mabury** and **Cheryl Regehr** will join the office of the vice-president and provost in new capacities and Professor **Edith Hillan** will begin a second term in the office in a redesigned role.

Hillan, the current vice-provost (academic), will become the vice-provost (faculty and academic life). The scope of this portfolio includes responsibility for faculty appointments, tenure, promotion, grievances, policy development and liaison with the University of Toronto Faculty Association, as well as matters relating to the delivery of the academic mission as it relates

to librarians, research associates, sessional lecturers and post-doctoral fellows. Prior to joining the provost's office in 2004, Hillan served as associate dean (academic programs) in the Lawrence S. Bloomberg Faculty of Nursing.

Regehr, currently serving as dean of the Factor-Inwentash Faculty of Social Work, will take on the role of vice-provost (academic programs), a new position responsible for the emerging area of quality assurance and standards. Regehr will serve as the point person for the academic planning process and cross-faculty interdisciplinary initiatives, as well as university-wide policy matters such as academic integrity.

Mabury, chemistry chair, will become vice-provost (academic operations), overseeing university-wide budget, space and information technology

matters, focusing on high-level policy and strategy in these areas from a tri-campus perspective. The executive director of planning and budget, the assistant vice-president (campus and facilities planning) and the chief information officer will report to him.

With the creation of this portfolio, the position of vice-provost (planning and budget) will be eliminated. Professor **Safwat Zaky**, currently serving in the role of vice-provost (planning and budget), will complete his term on June 30 along with Professor **Susan Pfeiffer**, vice-provost (graduate education) and dean of the School of Graduate Studies, and Professor Emeritus **Jonathan Freedman**, who most recently served as deputy provost. As was previously announced, Professor **Brian Corman** will be taking on the

role of vice-provost (graduate education) and dean of the School of Graduate Studies effective July 1.

Professors **Jill Matus**, vice-provost (students), and **Cathy Whiteside**, vice-provost (relations with healthcare institutions) and dean of the Faculty of Medicine, will be continuing in their current roles.

"I am delighted with the experience and enthusiasm our vice-provostial team brings to their portfolios and I look forward to working closely with all of them," said Professor **Cheryl Misak**, vice-president and provost.

The vice-provostial portfolios were restructured in January following consultations with an advisory committee reviewing the issue and the approval of the executive committee of Governing Council.



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CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Dicks was hired as part of the St. George teaching-stream faculty and immediately set about designing a suite of novel experiments for undergraduate organic laboratories. Since 2006 he has been heavily involved in the co-ordination of the National Chemistry Olympiad program and was the head academic mentor for the 2007 Canadian Chemistry Olympiad team at the International Chemistry Olympiad in Russia. At this event an Ontario student again won a gold medal (only Canada's sixth in 23 years of competition).

While teaching a range of undergraduate courses he has won several pedagogical awards including the Faculty of Arts & Science Outstanding Teaching Award in 2003, the Association of Part-time Undergraduate Students' Administrative Council Teaching Award in 2004 and the Faculty of Arts & Science Student Union Rini Ghosh Excellence in Teaching Award in 2007.

Mount has been a member of the U of T faculty since 2001. His prize-winning dissertation has since become a prize-winning book, *When Canadian Literature Moved to New York*, published by the University of Toronto Press in 2005, and was the winner of the Gabrielle Roy

Prize for the best book in Canadian literary criticism.

"What I like most about teaching is that it's where I learn the most. That and the simple comment from the student who says, I learned from that and I enjoyed it, *that* is the Holy Grail," Mount said.

Mount teaches at the undergraduate and graduate level in Canadian literature and theory. Since 2003, he has also taught his department's largest first-year course, Literature for Our Time, currently capped at 440 students. As part of his course, he hosts a literary series every spring, introducing his students, the university community and the public to young writers from Canada and the United States.

Schreiber, who has been affiliated with the university since he was 11 years old, has taught at many levels and in many contexts since his appointment to the University of Toronto. He studied at University of Toronto Schools and the university before joining the Faculty of Medicine. He has taught both medical students and post-graduate trainees extensively in the hospital setting in both seminar formats and also in the context of supervising the care of patients. Since 2000, he has been the director of the preclerkship in the Faculty of Medicine.

"I was humbled to even be nominated," said Shreiber. "Winning this award is thrilling and validating."

New dean of pharmacy

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1
focused on the translation of critical care research into practice. A prolific writer, he has more than 85 publications to his credit.

As well Mann has extensive academic administrative experience at the University of Minnesota, having served as associate dean and director of professional and external relations, associate head of

Pharmacy Practice, and director of experiential education. He has also had responsibility for education programs and has served on the educational policy committee.

"We are very pleased that Professor Mann will bring his considerable experience and talents to the Leslie Dan Faculty of Pharmacy," said Professor **Cheryl Misak**, vice-president and provost.

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Gene tells soldier ants to beat swords into ploughshares

BY NICOLLE WAHL

While science has yet to discover what makes that little ol' ant think he'll move that rubber tree plant, researchers at the University of Toronto Mississauga have identified an enzyme in ant brains that determines if they will defend the nest or gather food.

Professor **Marla Sokolowski**, a biologist at U of T Mississauga who in the 1980s discovered that a single gene affects the foraging behaviour of fruit flies, has found that the ant foraging gene "ppfor" can change behaviour — causing soldier ants to help with gathering food.

"These findings suggest that evolution has harnessed the same gene — across many different species, including humans — to affect behaviour," said Sokolowski, who holds a Canada Research Chair in genetics and behavioral neurology and conducted the research with international post-doctoral fellow **Christophe Lucas**, now a

researcher at the University of Lausanne in Switzerland. "We're interested in the mechanism and that will give rise to helping us understand social behaviour in higher organisms."

Pheidole pallidula ants, which nest under stones and soil in southern Europe, North Africa and central Asia, live in colonies with two distinct "subcastes," called majors and minors. Majors, which defend the nest, are almost six times as heavy and 1.5 times as long as minors and have large heads and mandibles, while the smaller but more numerous minors search for food and retrieve prey.

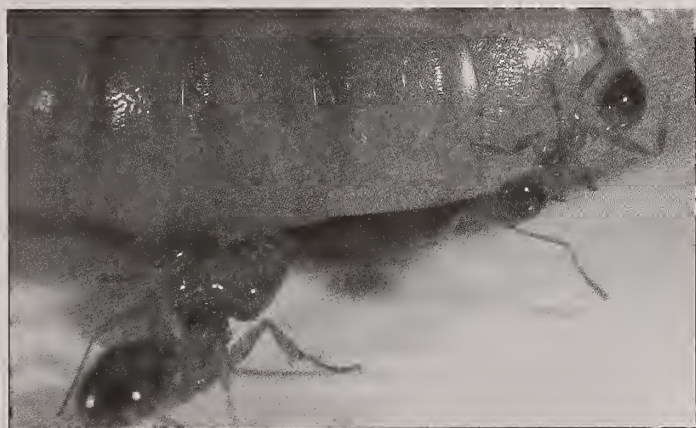
Lucas and Sokolowski found that changes in the levels of the enzyme cGMP-dependent protein kinase (PKG), made by the ppfor gene, allow majors to switch from defence to foraging behaviour. In times of need, majors help the minors with food gathering by using their mandibles to cut up large prey into manageable pieces. The minors' behaviour is not so flexible; they are not able to

switch to defence behaviour.

The study found that the brains of major and minor ants differ in the amount of PKG made by the foraging gene and where it is located. Major ants, which have more PKG, have roughly five more PKG-rich cells on the front surface of their brain than do minor ants. "When we increase the enzyme in majors, either through behavioural manipulation or by changing the amount of it [pharmacologically], majors act as soldiers and defend the nest; when minors give majors a chemical signal to help with food gathering, levels of PKG drop significantly in the majors," said Sokolowski.

The foraging gene also exists in mice, rats and humans and Sokolowski and her collaborator **Robert Levitan** at the Centre for Addiction and Mental Health are currently studying the role that this gene plays in food-related disorders, including seasonal affective disorder (SAD). "We have data to show that individuals with SAD differ in this human version of the foraging gene," Sokolowski said. "It's preliminary data but ... there are possibilities for treatment down the line."

The study, which appears in the March 30 issue of the journal *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences*, was funded by grants from the Natural Science and Engineering Research Council of Canada, the Canada Research Chairs Program, the Fyssen Foundation and a Gene by Environment Canadian Institutes for Health Research training grant.



A soldier ant (left) and a foraging ant usually have different roles in their colonies.

COURTESY OF MARLA SOKOLOWSKI

Sexual behaviour and workplace don't mix well, says new study

BY KEN MCGUFFIN

Be careful of that raunchy joke that gets all the laughs. As funny as folks at work may find it, it's probably hurting morale.

That's one conclusion of a groundbreaking new paper from the *Journal of Applied Psychology*, co-authored by researchers from the University of Toronto's Rotman School of Management and the University of British Columbia's Sauder School of Management. The study's authors looked at the effect of sexual behaviour in the workplace such as sexual jokes, innuendo, discussions of sexual matters or flirtation. And in a research first, they investigated if men and women got anything positive out of the behaviour, such as enjoyment and social bonding.

They found that some employees enjoyed sexual behaviour in the workplace — 25 per cent of those exposed to it found it fun and flattering while half were neutral. But even employees who enjoyed the behaviour tended to withdraw from work, felt less valued and reported depressive symptoms more often than employees who experienced little to no sexual behaviour at the office. The results were found among both women and men, working in manufacturing, social service and university jobs.

"We approached the study with an open mind," said Professor **Jennifer Berdahl** of the Rotman School, who co-authored the study with Professor Karl Aquino of the Sauder School. "We thought, Maybe these behaviours are a positive thing for employees who enjoy them. And then we found that they weren't."

"IN OUR CULTURE, SEXUALITY HAS THESE CONNOTATIONS OF DOMINATION, SUBORDINANCE AND VULNERABILITY,"

PROFESSOR
JENNIFER BERDAHL

Berdahl suggested the study's findings should be treated as "sage advice" for employees and employers to avoid engaging in sexual behaviour while on the job.

"In our culture, sexuality has these connotations of domination, subordination and vulnerability," she said. "Often a dominating behaviour is a way of making someone squirm. Why bring this into the workplace?"

The complete study is available at: www.rotman.utoronto.ca/newthinking/FunorFolly.pdf.

Scientists tap nature for clues to safe carbon capture

BY KIM LUKE

Carbon capture and storage has the potential to reduce harmful fossil-fuel related emissions to the Earth's atmosphere by recapturing CO₂ and storing it beneath the Earth's surface. The technique holds promise for reducing global warming but key questions remain about safe long-term storage of CO₂ and specifically about the means by which CO₂ is trapped underground.

An international team of scientists from the universities of Manchester, Edinburgh and Toronto have uncovered a phenomenon in nature that could point the way to successful carbon capture and storage. Their findings were published as the cover story in

the prestigious international journal *Nature* April 2.

"To solve the problem of carbon capture and storage, it is important to understand the possible storage mechanisms," said Professor **Barbara Sherwood Lollar**, a specialist in carbon isotope and gas geochemistry in the Department of Geology at U of T. "One way is via CO₂ reaction with the reservoir rock to form new minerals, a process termed mineral trapping. Another involves CO₂ dissolving into water in the same way that CO₂ is dissolved in sparkling water in a process known as solubility trapping."

Much of the research that is currently underway on carbon capture and storage involves artificially pumping CO₂ into

the ground but the Manchester-Toronto team took a different approach.

"Throughout the world, there are natural geologic 'analogue' sites," explained Sherwood Lollar. "These are underground gas fields where CO₂ originally generated by deep processes in the Earth was trapped and has remained in place over thousands or even millions of years."

By investigating the way in which CO₂ was trapped in these ancient natural gas fields, the research team gained valuable insight into the underground processes that would need to be harnessed to successfully undertake carbon capture and storage. They identified strong correlations between two different types of gas tracers —

the noble gases (helium and neon) measured at Manchester and carbon isotope variations in the CO₂ gases determined at the U of T's Stable Isotope Laboratory.

"What we found was remarkable," Sherwood Lollar said. "At sites throughout the world, we found that the major way CO₂ is stored is by dissolution into the underground water, rather than by mineral trapping."

"Water containing dissolved CO₂ is more dense than water without CO₂," explained Stuart Gilfillan, lead author of the study. Gilfillan was a PhD student at the University of Manchester when the work was completed and is now with the Scottish Centre for Carbon Storage at the University of Edinburgh. "The

CO₂-rich water sinks to the bottom of the reservoir where it is more likely to be securely stored."

The insight was only possible because of the collaboration between the two universities.

"Manchester and Toronto are international leaders in different aspects of gas tracing. By combining our expertise we have been able to invent a new way of looking at old gas fields," said Chris Ballentine, a University of Manchester professor and primary director on the project. "This new approach will also be essential for monitoring and tracing where carbon dioxide goes when we inject it underground. It will be critical for future safety verification."

TEN QUESTIONS

Professor Safwat Zaky, vice-provost (planning and budget)

1. As vice-provost (planning and budget), you have to deal with a lot of numbers. Your academic background is in electrical engineering and pure and applied mathematics. Is knowledge of pure mathematics helpful when it comes to crunching budget numbers?

The engineering background is an excellent preparation for a very wide range of jobs because it emphasizes solving problems. Budgets do not involve complex mathematics. However, being comfortable with numbers and being able to reduce them to something meaningful is very helpful. It is also important to appreciate that how something is calculated can make a large difference to the result.

2. What are you reading right now?

I am reading a book I had to put down awhile ago for lack of time — *First Intermissions* by Father Owen Lee. It's a collection of his commentaries on operas during intermissions at the Met [Metropolitan Opera] many years ago. He has wonderful insights.

3. Describe one personal item you have in your office?

A mix of art and technology hanging on the wall. It's a collage made by a friend who loves to use anything she can find. This one is a painting that incorporates a couple of old computer circuit boards.

4. How much time do you spend using your BlackBerry?

Only when necessary. As much as I am enthusiastic about the technology, I am not a believer in the non-stop use of cellphones or BlackBerries that you often see. It's a waste of time.

5. What's your favourite thing to do in Toronto?

I love going for walks around where I live near High Park and on that wonderful boardwalk on the lakeshore.

6. What kind of music do you listen to when you want to relax?

Classical music most of the time, particularly choral music.

7. Do you have a favourite film?

The film that comes immediately to mind is *Fiddler on the Roof*. I love the character of the milkman, Tevye, with his wonderful wisdom, humanity and humour and his struggle with change and outdated ideas.

8. Where did you grow up?

I grew up in Heliopolis, at the time a very quiet suburb of Cairo.

9. Do you have any siblings? Where are you in the hierarchy?

I am the eldest of four. I have three sisters — in Montreal; Houston, Texas; and in Cairo.

10. Can you tell me one thing you want to do that you haven't accomplished yet?

I have spent most of my life involved with technology. I would love to find time to learn more about history and the classics and I find opera an excellent window on that world.

COMPILED BY TAMMY THORNE

Professor Safwat Zaky has overall responsibility for the university's budget and academic planning process. He is the former chair of the Edward S. Rogers Sr. Department of Electrical and Computer Engineering. His current research interests are in the areas of computer architecture, logic synthesis and electromagnetic compatibility of digital systems.

Celebration of the Arts ends on a high note

BY TAMMY THORNE

U of T's 16-day long Celebration of the Arts ended on a high note, literally, with singers from the opera division at the Faculty of Music performing the songs of Cole Porter in a revue titled *Why Can't You Behave?*

With more than 80 events showcasing all aspects of the arts, the celebration wrapped up April 3 with dance, music, theatre and visual arts productions, as well as exhibitions by graduating art students across all three campuses.

"THE NEW WORKS SERIES PRESENTED AN EXCITING OPPORTUNITY FOR MANY OF OUR HARD-WORKING STUDENTS TO SHOWCASE THEIR WORK TO THE PUBLIC."

SUNNY KERR

Sunny Kerr, student and education program co-ordinator at the University of Toronto Art Centre (UTAC), said the celebration, which included 14 juried student

projects, was a real boon to student artists. "The New Works series presented an exciting opportunity for many of our hard-working students to showcase their work to the public. This year, the series, along with the focus on the master of visual studies graduating exhibition, enhanced the university's profile as a place that already fosters young visual artists."

Vanessa Laufer, director of U of T's arts hub, ArtsZone, said, "It was a great success in large part due to the breadth of work we were able to display from students and faculty across the three campuses. The interdisciplinary nature of the celebration was exceptional. For example, one exhibit from a visiting faculty member spoke to issues of social justice through video art."

Laufer referred to the well-attended video installation, *nothing is missing*, by renowned cultural theorist and critic Mieke Bal, who also lectured on the St. George and Scarborough campuses in March.

Bal is Distinguished Visiting Fellow for 2009 at the Jackman Humanities Institute at U of T and a Royal Netherlands Academy of Arts and Sciences professor at the Amsterdam School for

Cultural Analysis, University of Amsterdam. She is also an accomplished video artist. Bal's experimental documentaries on migration include *A Thousand and One Days*, *Access Denied* and *nothing is missing*; the latter was on display at UTAC during the celebration.

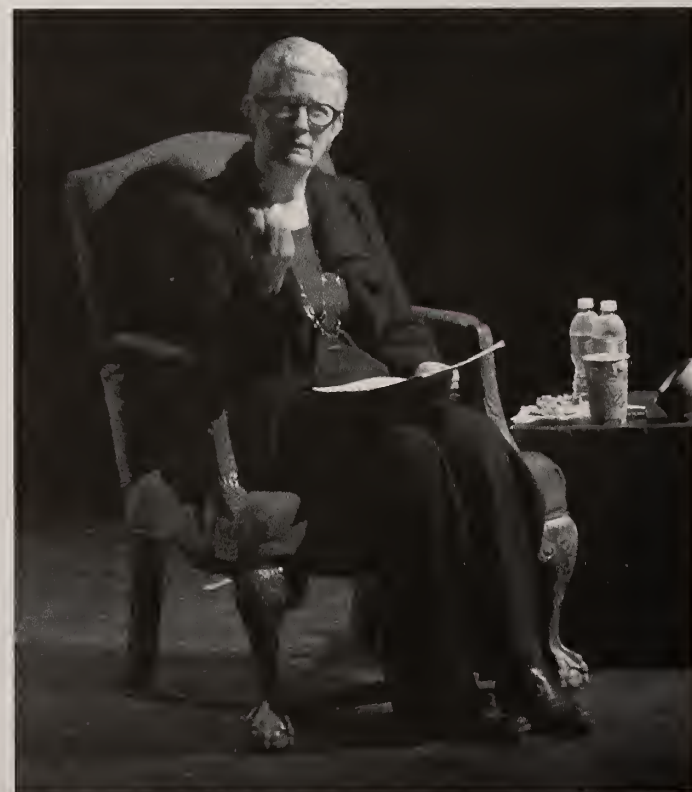
Viewers entering the room displaying the multiple screen video installation were delivered into multiple cozy kitchens where tables were set with tea pots, cups and saucers and doilies or floral patterned table cloths. Viewers sat and watched televised video installations depicting older women speaking to close relatives that remained unseen. They spoke about their interrupted relationships: interrupted due to the migration of their children. The work projected a sense of unease along with the intimacy.

Other celebration highlights included opening night's *Best Kept Secret*, a gala event held at 1 Spadina Cres., which featured art from some of U of T's notable faculty and visiting faculty like Johanna Schall whose grandfather, German dramatist Bertholt Brecht, wrote famous plays like *The Threepenny Opera*; concurrently, there was a multimedia, multi-participant "dance, video and music

mash-up party," STIR, at U of T Mississauga's Blackwood Gallery; and the reopening of U of T Scarborough's Leigha Lee Browne Theatre with the student theatre dance production *Stepping on Toes*.

The unofficial celebration of art on campus continues with stimulating programming at

all five art galleries and student art exhibitions on all three campuses, including the master of visual studies graduating exhibition at UTAC, which runs until April 18. On April 15 iconoclast artist Ian Carr-Harris will lead a guided tour of this exhibition at 5 p.m.



Mieke Bal, The Jackman Humanities Institute's 2009 Distinguished Visiting Fellow, lectured at U of T Scarborough during the 2009 Celebration of the Arts.

KEN JONES

89 Chestnut is community gateway

BY ANJUM NAYYAR

Campus housing can add excitement to the university experience and for students at U of T, one residence is putting the excitement of a big city at their doorstep.

89 Chestnut is a multi-faculty residence in its sixth year of operation. It offers more than 1,000 students a unique alternative to campus living, both in terms of location and programming. Located near the Faculty of Dentistry, just north of City Hall, the residence is in the heart of the downtown.

A converted hotel, 89 Chestnut has a very rich residence life program, similar to those offered by U of T's residential colleges. It has its own intramural teams and orientation program which help to create a sense of community among students living there.

"What's different about Chestnut is it houses students from every academic discipline and it also houses second-entry and graduate students," said **Anne Macdonald**, U of T's director of ancillary services.

When 89 Chestnut opened, it was home to a large number

of first-year students. However, due to the large number of returning students, it now has an almost 50-50 split between first-year and upper-year residents. It also houses students from the Ontario College of Art and Design, which makes it different from other U of T residences. As well, fully 35 per cent of its students are international.

"For students who want to have a bit of extra space and want to interact with people who are outside their college, this is a great place," said **Josephine Mullally**, dean of residence. "At Chestnut Residence we are really in the centre of things; it provides students with the opportunity to feel that they are really part of this city, as well as part of the university."

The facility has a common study lounge space, cafeteria, workout area, studio space and other amenities to make student life fun and convenient. For many students, choosing a residence can be a tough decision, but for students like fourth-year undergrad **Chris Melnick-Macdonald**, 89 Chestnut was ideal.

"For a young crowd it's the perfect place to be. You have everything at your fingertips. There is everything around us and if you lived on campus you wouldn't have the access that we do," he said.

Since more than half of the residents are first year students, for the first time this year Chestnut has developed a mentoring programming for first-year arts and science students. Residence life staff train and support for 10 mentors who in turn provide support and guidance to small groups of first-year year students.

"The idea was to help students in transition so we got a group of applicants to be mentors. It's a great way for students to connect. They have regular meetings with their mentors and social group activities," said Mullally. "They also talk about things like culture shock and preparing for exams and it's just one of the ways we put a friendlier face on the services of U of T."

Visit www.chestnutresidence.utoronto.ca. View a slideshow of the residence at www.youtube.com/watch?v=tk6m3_sQrRs.

Chancellor fetes top student art talent



COURTESY OF THE PRESIDENT'S OFFICE

First-prize winner Jessica Vallentin (centre) accepts her award from Chancellor David Peterson and his wife Shelley.

BY TAMMY THORNE

This year, for the first time, the chancellor's student art exhibition at U of T awarded the best in show. Top talent received prizes of \$500, \$300 and \$200 from Chancellor **David Peterson** and his wife Shelley at the March 30 opening.

Peterson decided to use his office to showcase student art, giving students a public forum to display their work, when he became chancellor three years ago.

"When I came here there was no art in this office and I also know there is nothing better for new artists than to have a place to show their work," he said. "We also want to show off our wonderful visual arts departments across all three campuses."

As he welcomed the crowd, which included influential performance artist **Tanya Mars**, a senior lecturer at Scarborough campus, and iconic city builder Eberhard Zeidler, Peterson said, "This is the third year we've had this exhibition and every year I'm told it is getting better, it is getting more professional — and more fun — and that is really important. I am not artistic at all but I am privileged to be married to a very talented artist. Shelley and I are thrilled to be part of this exhibition." Peterson clearly enjoys spending time with students and said it is hands-down the most enjoyable part of his job.

First prize winner **Jessica Vallentin**, a third-year student in the U of T Mississauga-Sheridan joint art and art history program, said she would like to work for an NGO using art in some way because "art has the ability to communicate like nothing else."

Her piece, titled *16:21*, was

the only solely audio work in the show. The title is the length of the source material. "It is a recording of a discussion from a radio program that got really heated. I edited out the words and left in the other sounds; the breathing and stutters, so you still get the feeling ... the emotion," she explained. "I hoped it would, and think it does, get across the emotions that were behind the original radio show but I was really more interested in the listener's interpretations of that." Smiling, she said she noticed some listeners seemed agitated.

Sunny Kerr, student and education co-ordinator at the University of Toronto Art Centre (UTAC), curated the exhibit. "We have an amazing diversity of strong artists at the university making brash, rigorous, probing, and in special cases, quite mature work," Kerr said.

Helena Rickett, senior curator of programs at the Power Plant Contemporary Art Gallery, judged the competition this year. Second place winner was video artist **Alexandra Busgang** with a work titled *Your Thoughts Don't Have Words Everyday II* (named after a series of untitled poems by Emily Dickinson) and third place went to **Ricardo Conte-Oro** whose works of photography were characterized as "having a great sense of adventure" by Rickett. Honourable mentions went to **Emma Baron**, **Johnson Ngo** and **Annie Tse**.

The art will remain on display at the Chancellor's office for a full year.

The student art exhibition coincided with U of T's Celebration of the Arts, a 16-day event that began on March 19 this year.

Brown, Russell top Blues athletes

BY MARY BETH CHALLONER

Varsity Blues swimming sensation Colin Russell and cross-country champion **Megan Brown** were named the University of Toronto's T-Holders Male and Female Athletes of the Year during U of T's annual athletic banquet awards ceremony April 3.

Russell, a fourth-year arts and science major, was named Canadian Interuniversity Sport (CIS) male swimmer of the year after he shattered three meet marks, including a pair of national records, and racked up seven medals in as many races — three golds, two silvers, two bronzes — at the CIS championships.

He swept the 50- (22.03 seconds), 100- (47.23) and 200-

metre (1:43.31) freestyle events, setting Canadian short-course records in the latter two, and becoming the first male swimmer since 2003 to capture the CIS Sprinter's Cup for winning both the 50- and 100-metre freestyle events in the same national championship.

In addition to his successful university campaign, the 2008 Olympian helped Canada garner a fifth-place finish in the men's 4x200-metre relay as well as sixth-place in the 4x400-metre relay in Beijing. He was also a semi-finalist in the 200-metre freestyle.

Like Russell, Brown dominated her sport in 2008. After taking most of last year off due to illness, Brown won every race this season and earned her third U of T female athlete of the year award in four years.

A fourth-year faculty of physical education and health student, Brown reclaimed both the Ontario University Athletics (OUA) and CIS cross-country individual titles, titles she first won in 2006.

She was named the OUA most valuable runner, winning by 34 seconds while leading the Blues to a silver medal finish.

Brown was also named the CIS cross-country female athlete of the year as she completed the five-kilometre event in 17:36.8, 22 seconds faster than



Colin Russell

her closest rival, and again led the Varsity Blues to a second-place finish.

Brown remains undefeated as a Varsity Blue in university cross-country competition.

Two other major U of T athletic awards were also presented at the banquet.

Football's starting quarterback **David Hamilton** was presented with the George M. Biggs award, while track and field's star high jumper **Sarah Boyle** received the Clara Benson honour award, for their outstanding athletic achievement, scholarship and community service during their time at the University of Toronto.

Forty student-athletes were also awarded the Silver T, honouring graduating Varsity Blues for outstanding athletic achievement.



Megan Brown

Blog on

Students, faculty and staff are all participating in this online community-building adventure.



U of T's chief information officer turns to cyberspace

BY ANJUM NAYYAR

U of T's chief information officer, **Robert Cook**, is one of the few university chief information officers (CIOs) to use a blog, called the CIO's Desk (<http://www.cio.utoronto.ca/cios-desk>), to share ongoing information about the work done by his office. His team is responsible for planning and providing central information technology services at the University of Toronto and facilitating the delivery of IT services across the university's divisions.

"One of the goals I had very early was to improve communications across groups that had not communicated as thoroughly before and to share with the broader university community some of the things going on in this office," said Cook. "It was part of a broader move towards transparency."

Cook joined the university in 1990 as the head of the Technology for Enhancing Learning Centre at the former Faculty of Education. From 1996 to 2004 he was co-director (technology) for the Education Commons at the Ontario Institute for Studies in Education, U of T (OISE) and was one of the architects of its creation. He became OISE's chief information officer in 2004 and university CIO in May of last year.

While at the university, he has been involved with initiatives that harness information and communications technology to the academic agenda. His current position, he said, is to "encourage a greater coherence in the provision of information technology services across the university."

Cook said he wanted to use a blog to share information about who he's talking to and the ideas that are shaping his

thoughts about the future. In it he invites comments and will share many of them to move the discussion forward.

"Blogs are much more reflective than Twitter but not as intimidating or formal as a paper or a submission to a journal," he noted.

He also publishes his schedule, an act meant to show transparency regarding his role in the university.

"Blogs and other social networking tools can serve to create a greater sense of community and to reveal a commonality of the issues that folks across the portfolio are dealing with," he said. "In technology there is a tendency for work to isolate individuals, so anything that brings people together to share what influences them and the goals they're trying to work towards is great."

His blog has touched on subjects such as the restructuring of tech-

nology services at U of T, professional development and the greening of information and technology services. He said he's determined to make his blog personal — it will only be written by him and he doesn't plan on relying on others to help him keep it up to date.

"I want this blog to be sincere. If there's a good idea or a bad idea, I am accountable for it."

Cook said he believes blogs can be an important tool for communities, especially within the university.

"In the university we are so big and we are so distributed that mechanisms that allow for the support of communities of interest are extremely valuable," he said. "They break down this very large environment. They make it a personal and meaningful experience in terms of linking up with people who have shared interests."

Blogging student engineers help recruit new students to U of T

BY ANJUM NAYYAR

Ever wondered what it is like to be an engineering student at U of T? Now you can find out first-hand through student bloggers who share their thoughts and experiences online.

Once students have applied to the Faculty of Applied Science and Engineering they receive access to the Skule™ Space applicant website that was launched in January 2007 (www.skulespace.engineering.utoronto.ca). This site, which includes blogs, is designed to be a space where applicants can get a better feel for the entire U of T engineering community. Students, staff and faculty have all contributed to the engineering blogs, giving a real inside look at life in engineering at U of T.

"The blogs serve to show applicants an inside perspective on what it's like for students and staff members here in engineering at U of T," said **Jessie Metcalfe**, recruitment and retention co-ordinator for engineering. "Our updates are all based on a theme, such as engineering and business, what it's like to study in Toronto or the human side of engineering. I think blogs in general are very relevant to current times and they offer a more personal approach in conveying information to the applicants."

During the admissions cycle from December to May, the faculty has a new blog every month, while during the summer transition period a new blog is



Engineering staff member Myrtle Millares

provided every second week. The themed blogs are tied into the podcasts on the Skule™ website.

Postings by **Angela Tan**, an international student blogger, help reassure other international students who might be hesitant about attending U of T.

"When it comes to attending the largest university in Canada, I was really afraid that I would be lost in the sea of students," writes Tan. "I thought that, like the other 900 classmates, I would just be a student number to the professors. Luckily, being in Engineering, the size of

The Faculty of Applied Science and Engineering uses a blog (www.skulespace.engineering.utoronto.ca) to give prospective students a feel for life at the faculty.

Social media: the identity megaphone

BY TAMMY THORNE

Mark Federman is a self-described cultural glaciologist. And according to him, what we are seeing now in terms of the effects of social media on society is just the tip of the iceberg.

Federman is former chief strategist at the McLuhan Program in Culture and Technology and a PhD candidate at OISE, U of T where his research focuses on organizational change.

He is researching the effects of our current era — the age of being “ubiquitously connected and pervasively proximate” — on workplace organization and, more generally, the ways in which we gather together collectively to get things done.

It’s too soon to tell what the effects of social media are because the medium is still in its relative infancy, he said, but one thing is certain: social media act as an “identity megaphone.”

“So when we talk about Facebook or blogs or Twitter or MySpace — it’s all the same — what we’re really talking about is: How does this change the social dynamic through which we construct who we are?”

With the pervasiveness of social media we are now able to display aspects of ourselves to a wide variety of people, many of whom we don’t know in the conventional face-to-face sense. Federman describes this as “publicity” — a sort of conscious opposite to privacy.

“We are allowing other people to collaboratively construct our identities with us.”

Federman said this is the major effect of social media. “When academics and politicians are blogging, they are thinking, What can we use this for? This wrongly focuses on the instrumentality of it.

“When a politician ‘tweets’ or posts something on Facebook, they are still thinking broadcast — outreach to the wider community — but really what’s happening is their identity is being collaboratively constructed,” said Federman, citing the example of Barack Obama’s successful campaign where he became a “superman who was going to solve health care and cure the economy and all other problems.”

Political science professor **Nelson Wiseman** describes himself as an “atypical

technologically retarded technophobe” and asked the question: Who reads blogs? He isn’t convinced that they are essential in the world of politics.

“What we have is a lot of narrowcasting. I know Twitter but I don’t think it has had really any effect politically. These things are hyped because they are new technologies. But what impact do they have?”

Wiseman said that most political parties have found that their websites and blogs are just monitored by staff from the other parties. “The impact is variable.”

Federman disagreed with Wiseman’s dismissive sentiments. “It’s not a question of just being hip and using the technology.”

He said a new phenomenon born from social media called “emergent transparency” gives us insight into public figures that allows us to understand who and what they are in a way that is absolutely unprecedented.

“It has changed the dynamics of public engagement and that can change the democratic process for the better,” he said.

“The message of a medium is not its content or its information; instead, it is the change that it causes. Looking at effect over time is what lets us know what the thing is about,” he said.

“McLuhan tells us the way someone uses a technology is completely useless. When I teach this stuff I use the example of the refrigerator. It doesn’t matter how you use the refrigerator or what you use it for — apple pie, roast beef or dead bodies — it doesn’t matter. What effect did refrigerators in people’s homes have on the way we engage? I can store foods longer which means I don’t have to go to the market every day, which means I lose the long-standing social dynamic of ‘market as meeting place’ and it means because I am going to the market less often, I’ll want to get more stuff, which enabled the development of supermarkets,” he said. “Collectively we are still figuring it out the political ramifications,” he said, “It will take a few elections yet.”

Federman’s blog is whatisthemessage.blogspot.com.

the classes is relatively small and professors do actually know us by name.”

Myrtle Millares, who works in the first-year office as a first-year assistant, is another contributor to the blog. She began her academic career in engineering at U of T in 1995.

“Our students, staff and faculty are accomplishing so much more outside of the classroom and there are not many venues for them to talk about their discoveries and challenges,” said Millares. “It’s important for prospective students, when considering the engineering programs at U of T, to know that we’re in a hub of creative and intellectual activity. If you invest time in exploring what’s available, you’ll make important connections with people and find ways to apply your newfound knowledge and strengths. Hopefully, students reading this blog will find something that sparks their interest and inspires them to

make the most out of their time at U of T.”

Millares said the blog is a great way to reach potential students.

“For prospective students, this means they can carefully research the schools they’re interested in attending and get a sense of the atmosphere of a school through the contributors’ voices. In particular, we can now reach more international students and introduce them to U of T and the city, hopefully making the transition a little less daunting and more exciting.”

The engineering faculty is now looking at creating a site dedicated to international students that will also include a blog.

“We are investigating ways to reach out to our applicants and to high school counsellors around the world,” said **Anne Rose**, acting associate director of the engineering student recruitment and retention office.

Student teaches U of T’s inaugural blogging class



CAZ ZYATKAUSKAS

U of T communications assistant Nina Haikara explains her take on blogging after studying the topic at the School for Continuing Studies.

BY TAMMY THORNE

As **editor-in-chief** of one of Toronto’s most popular blogs **David Topping** said it seemed like a good fit for him to teach U of T’s first course devoted entirely to blogging.

“It’s my first time teaching, but the job of an editor is transferable to teaching, I find, because on a day-to-day basis I am looking over peoples’ work and giving them advice. It seemed a natural continuation of what I was doing,” he said.

It’s not surprising that the School for Continuing Studies (SCS) tapped Topping for the job last year. The 21-year-old undergraduate English student runs Torontoist when he’s not working towards his degree at U of T.

Torontoist is a group blog that “covers anything and everything that is interesting going on in Toronto” and is part of the larger Gothamist city blog network. The site receives 7,000 to 10,000 visitors per day. Topping has been the top dog at the popular blog for three years now.

What is a blog?

“The easiest way to think about it is as a website with regularly updated new content,” he said. “The word blog comes from web log. It’s a portmanteau.” Generally, conventions dictate that newer articles, or “posts,” are displayed first, but a blog can take many forms. “What everyone — from corporations to individuals like authors and photographers — is trying to figure out now is how to use the form effectively.”

Topping’s Art and Business of Blogging course was part of the SCS

program for the freelance writing certificate.

U of T communications assistant **Nina Haikara** said she took the course to bring some of the practical implications of blogging to her job. “I was most surprised about how mainstream blogs are now and how they are used by the mainstream media,” she said.

Topping said the relationship is mutually beneficial, but there are misconceptions. “There is this idea that blogs are parasitic and feed off of the mainstream media. What I’ve tried to do with Torontoist is show that it is a symbiotic relationship between newspapers and the blogs.”

Topping’s personal goal with Torontoist is to dispel stereotypes about Internet reporting. “I want to be able to demonstrate that good reporting, good writing, good photography and good ethics are not things that only belong to old media.”

Most of all, Topping said that the beauty of the blog is that “it allows you to find out what interests people you find interesting.” He said he likes the idea of professors blogging.

“I have definitely had professors that, if they started up a blog and linked to things they were interested in or wrote pithy little 300-word articles about something they are working on, I know I would read it. I’m thinking of someone like Mark Kingwell or Nick Mount or Jeremy Lopez. I know not all students enjoy school as much as I do, but still, the idea of having access to the things that the professors you find interesting also find interesting would be a really cool opportunity.”

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Putting university's investment performance in context

In a year when all markets suffered a dramatic drop, the funds managed by the University of Toronto Asset Management Corporation (UTAM) declined significantly. For the year ending Dec. 31, 2008, UTAM posted returns of -29.5 per cent for the pension fund and -29.4 per cent for the endowment. The expendable fund had a positive return of 1.5 per cent.

According to newly appointed UTAM CEO **Bill Moriarty**, "With stock markets characterized by the most severe bear market since the 1930s, there were simply few places to hide. We continue to believe that it is important to maintain a long-term horizon and not react to short-term market conditions. Unfortunately, the severity of the one year results completely eliminated the strong outperformance that had been achieved over the previous five years."

Reviewing the investment performance for 2008, **Cathy Riggall**, vice-president (business affairs), echoed Moriarty's disappointment. "While we are not happy with these results, we recognize that markets are volatile. We were very happy with the great results of the last five years and expect the markets and the portfolios will turn around."

Commenting on the impact of the funds' decline on the university, Professor **Cheryl Misak**, vice-president and provost, said, "As soon as the markets collapsed to a point where it seemed possible that the endowment payout was in

jeopardy this year, we signalled that to our divisions and our donors. We then focused on trying to ensure that as many programs as possible which are normally funded from the endowment would be supported from the operating budget or from other funds. Faculties have on the whole met this enormous challenge."

The pension plan situation is somewhat different. There is a deficit in the plan but the university has been setting aside \$27 million annually from the operating budget to deal with funding shortfalls — a strategy that has proven very helpful.

"We now have three years for markets to improve and to work out additional funding strategies," Riggall said. "Pensioners need not worry that their pensions are at risk — the university will meet all pension commitments."

Asked about how UTAM's performance compared to other plans, Riggall said it is important to compare apples to apples. Comparing returns among funds is difficult because funds have different return goals and risk tolerances that drive asset allocation decisions and result in very different portfolios. For this reason the University of Toronto recently introduced a reference portfolio, which will give UTAM a way to assess what the results would be on a portfolio with the same risk and return goals but with greater reliance on fixed-income investments.

UTAM performance can be compared to the return on its benchmark portfolio, which

was -25.6 per cent. The return on the newly introduced reference portfolio was -18.8 per cent and the median return for the universe of large Canadian pension funds was -18.4 per cent. Most of the drop occurred in the second half of 2008; on that basis, UTAM results are similar to those of many comparable funds. UTAM lost 26 per cent in the period; U.S. endowments were down 24.1 per cent for the same period.

Looking at performance over a longer horizon gives a different picture. For the five years ending June 30, 2008, UTAM performance for the endowment ranked second among a group of peer universities (Alberta, Arizona, Berkeley, B.C., Illinois, McGill, Minnesota, Ohio, Queen's, Texas, Washington and Wisconsin). Ten year performance to the same year ended ranked U of T third.

Looking at a group of Canadian-only peers (Alberta, B.C., Calgary, Dalhousie, Laval, McGill, McMaster, Montreal, Ottawa, Queen's, Western and Waterloo), UTAM performance ranked first for the year ending Dec. 31, 2007 on a five-year basis and fourth on a 10-year basis.

"UTAM has been a major contributor to the financial health of the University of Toronto over the past decade. We're disappointed by the past year's results but confident that UTAM's strategies will continue to pay good dividends for the university and our pensioners in the long run," Riggall said.

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BY CYNTHIA WESLEY-ESQUIMAUX

In February of this year, I took my spring break with 20 young people, taking them on a journey across what many would call the near north of Ontario. What were we looking for? We were looking for the roots of Canadian identity, for what the youth referred to as the third pillar of Canada's understanding of itself.

They were questioning the education and knowledge base they had about native peoples in Canada. They had information about the British, they had information about the French, but they had very little real knowledge or understanding about whom the aboriginal people in this country are and what they are doing. On this journey, we realized that this is partly because media has metaphorically dealt us a hand of cards that only shows an image of the joker when it comes to native peoples and just what, they wanted to know, does this mean to who we all are as Canadians, and, perhaps more important, how we see ourselves?

I learned a lot from these young people. I learned that intentions are everything, that truth is a must and that sometimes you have to go a lot further than you think to get what you want.

I also have the privilege of teaching some of these kids at the University of Toronto and we've covered a lot of ground over the past academic year on Aboriginal Peoples in Canada. They learned in my class that they need to know more, that they want to know more, and I learned that the cultural richness I spoke of throughout the year had to be experienced first-hand to make it come alive.

We travelled to seven First Nations communities, a couple of educational institutions, some native businesses and a few organizations and we asked questions and really listened to the responses we received everywhere we went. We sat through hours of elders' teachings and stories, long nights of talking circles

and ceremony and a rather uncomfortable bus ride. We videotaped everything we saw and everyone we met, and then we listened some more. These youth probably listened and journalled enough to earn a full university credit and we all learned enough to transform our vision of our country and the world around us.

Now more than ever, we saw the need to create collaboration between Aboriginal Peoples and other Canadians and to participate in the truth and recon-

ciliation that Canada says will be necessary to produce an equitable future for everyone. On this journey, we participated in community roundtables, heard oral teachings on history that went back 20,000 years, were given songs. People drummed so we could dance, we slid on snowy hills, trekked a frozen lake and we saw an aboriginal Canada that does not get represented in media. We saw and experienced a truth that few Canadians rarely get to witness, not because it is hidden and effectively shielded from Canadian minds but because they have not looked.

This summer we are going out across Canada to engage aboriginal and non-aboriginal youth and leaders on a journey of identity, leadership and knowledge exchange. I have a great deal of confidence in the ability of these kids to move the barriers that have been placed between us.

My challenge to other educators and to Canadian leadership at large is to join this journey by providing support and encouragement. Open your networks and use your social capital to open gates of engagement for these kids and sponsor a youth on at least one journey over the summer. I am heading to Vancouver Island with one team; others are going to the East Coast, Alberta and northern Ontario. We are going anywhere that we can find young native people who want to actively demon-

strate the wisdom and beauty of their own community or where there are Canadian youth who want to learn about what is right about aboriginal Canada and explore the third pillar of our society.

Miigwetch.

Cynthia Wesley-Esquimaux is a professor in the aboriginal studies program and at the Factor-Inwentash Faculty of Social Work. She can be reached via e-mail at cynthia.wesley@utoronto.ca.



Victoria College fourth-year student David Berliner teaches a hand game to a youngster, part of the lighter side of a spring break visit to seven First Nations communities.

Enrolment up, report states

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

figures, the report includes enrolment projections underlying the assumptions in the budget report for the planning period 2009-10 to 2013-14. An increase of about 1,000 undergraduate students is projected at U of T Mississauga, with a small reduction on the St. George campus. No changes are projected at U of T Scarborough because of space constraints. Some previously planned reductions in enrolment on the St. George campus are being postponed because of budget pressures.

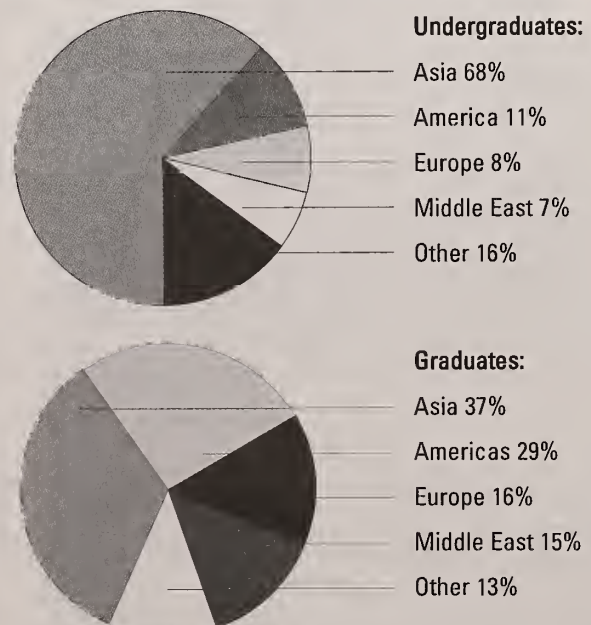
Graduate expansion is projected to continue, in response to the opportunities presented by the government's Reaching Higher plan. In the second and final phase of the government's program, the Ministry

of Training, Colleges and Universities allocated 340 master's degree and 250 doctoral spaces to the university, in addition to those previously allocated.

Total graduate enrolment has increased by about 20 per cent since 2004-05, to 12,917 from 10,782 full-time equivalent students. Of these, 835 are doctoral students, 241 are in doctoral-stream master's programs and 1,059 are in professional master's programs.


"Many excellent new professional master's programs have been introduced over the past few years and others are in preparation," said Zaky. "These are innovative programs, focused on serving the needs of various sectors of the economy, from health to finance to IT and the demand for them is very high."

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LECTURES

The Language of Stained Glass. Wednesday, April 15

Sarah Hall, Toronto-based stained glass artist; annual Christianity and the Arts lecture. 400 Alumni Hall, St. Michael's College, 121 St. Joseph St. 7:30 to 11 p.m. *St. Michael's College*

The Political Economy of Technology Change. Thursday, April 16

Prof. David Wolfe, Munk Centre for International Studies; annual general meeting lecture. Combination Room, Trinity College. 1 p.m. *Sigma Xi, U of T Chapter*

What Is the History of Books in Canada? Thursday, April 16

Prof. Em. Patricia Fleming, Faculty of Information; annual Frederic Alden Warren lecture. George Ignatieff Theatre, 15 Devonshire Place. 8 p.m. *Trinity College*

SEMINARS

Bioethics in the First Person: A Report of the Bioethics and Cancer Project. Wednesday, April 15

Prof. Arthur Frank, University of Calgary. Philippa Harris Bioethics Library, 88 College St. 4 to 5:15 p.m. *Joint Centre for Bioethics*

Paradigm Shifts in Forensic Science: The Future of Forensic Entomology.

Friday, April 17

Prof. Sherah Van Laerhoven, University of Windsor. Leslie L. Dan Pharmacy Building. 1 p.m. *Centre for Forensic Science & Medicine*

The Role of 4-Methoxyindol-3-Ylmethylglucosinolate in Plant Defence: New Tricks for an Old Molecule.

Friday, April 17

Prof. George Jander, Cornell University. 432 Ramsay Wright Building. 2 p.m. *Cell & Systems Biology*

PiggyBac Transposition Reprograms Fibroblasts to Induced Pluripotent Stem Cells and the Follow Up.

Monday, April 20

Prof. Andras Nagy, molecular genetics. 2172 Medical Sciences Building. 4 p.m. *Laboratory Medicine & Pathobiology*

PEP Carboxykinase in Plants: An Enzyme for All Seasons.

Friday, April 24

Prof. Richard Leegood, University of Sheffield. 432 Ramsay Wright Building. 2 p.m. *Cell & Systems Biology*

Scar Wars: Drug Discovery for Antifibrotics and Levels of Intervention.

Monday, April 27

Prof. Michael Raghunath, National University of Singapore. 237 FitzGerald Building. 11:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. *Dentistry*

Legal Documents From the Judean Desert: The Impact of Islamic Law on Bedouin Customary Law.

Tuesday, April 28

Prof. Em. Aharon Layish, Hebrew University of Jerusalem. Bancroft Hall Conference Room. 10 a.m. *Near & Middle Eastern Civilizations*

MEETINGS AND CONFERENCES

Universities, Innovation and Global Medicine Access.

Monday, April 20 and Tuesday, April 21

The Initiative for Drug Equity & Access (IDEA) and Universities Allied for Essential Medicines (UAEM) workshop will host a diverse speaker panel and audience of researchers, academics, university administrators, civil society organizations and students from across the continent. The workshop will explore the current Canadian and global landscape on innovation and commercialization policies as linked with the mission of universities in promoting neglected disease research and access to medicines globally. Vivian & David Campbell Conference Facility, Munk Centre for International Studies. 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. Registration fee: \$25, students \$15. *Munk Centre for International Studies and Canadian Institutes of Health Research*

NATO at 60: What Choices and Challenges for the Alliance? Tuesday, April 21

This conference has gathered some of the most recognized NATO experts who will explore the issues and insights. George Ignatieff Theatre, 15 Devonshire Place. 8:15 a.m. to 2:45 p.m. Registration \$75, students \$20. Information and registration: info@atlantic-council.ca. *Atlantic Council of Canada*.

MUSIC

FACULTY OF MUSIC EDWARD JOHNSON BUILDING Chamber Music.

Tuesday, April 28

Felix Galimir Chamber Music Award concert. Walter Hall. 7:30 p.m. Pay what you can.

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Arnold Noyek Dept. of Otolaryngology, Head & Neck Surgery, Faculty of Medicine

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Bryan Karney Division of Environmental Engineering & Energy Systems,
Faculty of Applied Science & Engineering

Divisional category:

The Socrates Project Department of Philosophy, Faculty of Arts & Science

CAROLYN TUOHY IMPACT ON PUBLIC POLICY AWARD

Doug Reeve Department of Chemical Engineering & Applied Chemistry
Faculty of Applied Science & Engineering

VIVEK GOEL FACULTY CITIZENSHIP AWARD

Ron Venter Professor Emeritus, Faculty of Applied Science & Engineering

ADEL S. SEDRA DISTINGUISHED GRADUATE AWARD

Scholar:

William Clifton Vanderlinden

Department of Political Science,
Faculty of Arts & Science

Finalists:

Jordan Poppenk

Department of Psychology,
Faculty of Arts & Science

Lydell Wiebe

Department of Civil Engineering,
Faculty of Applied Science & Engineering

JOHN H. MOSS SCHOLARSHIP

Scholar:

Raha Bahreini

Faculty of Arts & Science, Victoria College

Finalists:

James Auron

Faculty of Arts & Science, University College

Colum (Michael) Grove-White

Faculty of Arts & Science, Trinity College

Sheryl Johnson

Faculty of Arts & Science, Victoria College

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EXHIBITIONS

ERIC ARTHUR GALLERY
JOHN H. DANIELS FACULTY OF
ARCHITECTURE, LANDSCAPE &
DESIGN

Wes Jones:
Works From El Segundo
To April 18

The exhibition surveys design by the acclaimed practice of Jones, Partners: Architecture. Projects selected from the last decade explore future possibilities for single and multi-unit housing at a variety of scales. Included are models, drawings, renderings and spreads from the latest J.P.A monograph. Hours: Monday to Friday, 11 a.m. to 7 p.m.; Saturday, noon to 5 p.m.

U OF T ART CENTRE
Master of Visual Studies.
To April 18

2009 graduating class. Laidlaw Wing, University College. Hours: Tuesday to Friday, noon to 5 p.m.; Saturday, noon to 4 p.m.

DORIS MCCARTHY GALLERY
U OF T SCARBOROUGH
meeting point.
To April 26

This exhibition presents works by international artists in which mundane objects function as facilitators between two people to construct different types of relationships or to act as metaphors for these relationships. Gallery hours: Tuesday to Friday, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.; Sunday, noon to 5 p.m.

THOMAS FISHER RARE BOOK
LIBRARY
Werner Pfeiffer (Censor, Villain,
Provocateur, Experimenter):
Book Objects and Artist Books.
To May 1

This exhibition, the first travelling exhibition of the artist books and book-objects of Werner Pfeiffer, features 30 objects made by Pfeiffer using real books. Hours: Monday to Friday, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

JUSTINA M. BARNICKE
GALLERY
HART HOUSE
South-South:
Interruptions and Encounters.
To May 19

Each artist's work represents or explores a site in which some aspect of African and South Asian history come together and redefine each other; part of the South-South Encounters: Conversations Across South Asia, Africa and the Caribbean series. Both galleries. Gallery hours: Monday to Wednesday, 11 a.m. to 5 p.m.; Thursday and Friday, 11 a.m. to 7 p.m.; Saturday and Sunday, 1 to 5 p.m.

JOHN W. GRAHAM LIBRARY
TRINITY COLLEGE
Flora and Fauna From the
Saunderson Rare Books Room.
To May 30

An exhibition celebrating natural history and the book arts, featuring diverse botanical and other illustrated books from the 18th to 20th centuries. Hours: Monday to Friday, 9 a.m. to 11:45 p.m.; Saturday, 9 a.m. to 8:45 p.m.; Sunday, 1 to 11:45 p.m.

BLACKWOOD GALLERY
U OF T MISSISSAUGA
awashawave.
To May 31

A group exhibition investigating figurative and literal interpretations of inundation and the resulting perceptual tensions and shifts of being one among many; curated by Christof Migone. Gallery hours: Monday to Friday, 11 a.m. to 5 p.m.; Sunday, 1 to 4 p.m.

MISCELLANY

Centre for Environment
Research Day.
Wednesday, April 22

Presentations by faculty and students and a presentation of graduate students' awards will be featured. Faculty Club. 10 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. Free registration and details at www.environment.utoronto.ca/ResearchDay2009.aspx. *Environment*

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**Back to the Big Bang:
The Large Hadron Collider**
Thursday May 7th, 2009
Medical Sciences Auditorium,
King's College Circle, KP 2158: 1:30 p.m.

Lyn Evans
Project leader of the
Large Hadron Collider at CERN

**Battling Decoherence:
The Fault-Tolerant Quantum Computer**
Friday, May 8th, 2009 Koffler Institute,
KP 108, at the end of Bancroft Avenue.
1:30 p.m.

John Preskill
John D. MacArthur Professor of
Theoretical Physics at Caltech

**Putting Weirdness to Work:
Quantum Information Science**
Thursday May 7th, 2009
Medical Sciences Auditorium,
King's College Circle, KP 2158: 3:30 p.m.

John Preskill
John D. MacArthur Professor of
Theoretical Physics at Caltech

The Large Hadron Collider
Friday, May 8th, 2009
Koffler Institute, KP 108,
at the end of Bancroft Avenue.
3:15 p.m.

Lyn Evans
Project leader of the
Large Hadron Collider at CERN

COMMITTEES

SEARCH: CHAIR, DEPARTMENT OF SOCIOLOGY

A search committee has been established in the Faculty of Arts and Science to recommend a chair of the Department of Sociology. Member are: Professors Meric Gertler, dean, Faculty of Arts & Science (chair); Suzanne Stevenson, vice-dean (students); Cynthia Cranford, sociology, U of T Mississauga; Joe Hermer, physical and environmental sciences, U of T Scarborough; Neil Nevitte, political science; and Adam Green, Ito Peng and Ann-Marie Sorenson, sociology; and Anne Shipley, administrative staff, sociology; Angela Kalyta, undergraduate student, and Kim De Laat, graduate student, sociology; and Vera Melnyk, assistant dean and director, office of the dean (secretary).

The committee would appreciate receiving nominations and/or comments from interested members of the university community. These should be submitted by April 17 to Professor Meric Gertler, dean, faculty of Arts & Science, Room 2005, Simcoe Hall.

REVIEW: RESOURCE CENTRE FOR ACADEMIC TECHNOLOGY

The Resource Centre for Academic Technology (RCAT) has not been formally reviewed since it was established in 2001 as an initiative to facilitate access to effective teaching, learning and research strategies using computer technology. The mandate of RCAT is to provide innovative services that support faculty in the utilization of information technology for teaching and learning. More information on the centre can be found on its website: <http://content.library.toronto.ca/rcat/>. An administrative review is being commissioned to review the centre's mandate and operations.

Terms of Reference

1. Is the mandate of RCAT appropriate for the university? How can it be of best use to the university?
2. What structural improvements should be made to RCAT's organization and administration that would enable it to better fulfil its purpose? How should RCAT be governed?
3. What relationship should RCAT have with other units at the university?

Membership

Jill Matus, vice-provost (students), (chair); Grant Allen, vice-dean (undergraduate), Faculty of Applied Science & Engineering; Gage Averill, dean and vice-principal (academic), U of T Mississauga; Robert Cook, chief information officer; Elizabeth Cowper, vice-dean (programs), School of Graduate Studies; Corey Goldman, associate chair (undergraduate), ecology and evolutionary biology, Faculty of Arts & Science; Paula Neves, PhD candidate, health policy, management and evaluation; Marden Paul, director, strategic computing; Jay Rosenfield, vice-dean (undergraduate medical education); Seamus Ross, dean, Faculty of Information; John Scherk, vice-dean, U of T Scarborough; Suzanne Stevenson, vice-dean (students), Faculty of Arts & Science; Karel Swift, university registrar; Dennis Thiessen, acting associate dean (academic), OISE, U of T; and Helen Lasthiotakis (secretary).

The committee welcomes comments and suggestions from interested persons. These should be submitted before April 20 to Helen Lasthiotakis, director (policy and planning), Room 225, Simcoe Hall; 416-946-0501; h.lasthiotakis@utoronto.ca.

CALL FOR NOMINATIONS

In accordance with Section 60 of the Policy on Appointment of Academic Administrators, the provost has issued a call for nominations of individuals to serve on the advisory committee that will advise the president on the appointment of a new dean of the Faculty of Music; Professor Russell Hartenberger will complete his term as dean June 30, 2010. The policy mandates the potential composition of the advisory committee as follows: the vice-president and provost or representative (chair); three to five members of the teaching staff of the faculty; one to three students of the faculty; the dean of the School of Graduate Studies or representative; a librarian, where appropriate; two or three other qualified scholars from within or outside this university but outside the faculty. In addition the committee may include an alumnus/a, a member of the administrative staff and a senior member of the appropriate professional community.

The committee will begin meeting this spring with the objective of completing the search as soon as possible in the fall. Nominations should be sent by April 23 via the vice-present and provost's website online form at www.provost.utoronto.ca/committees/advisory/MUSIC.htm. Questions should be directed to Helen Lasthiotakis, director (policy and planning), at 416-946-0501; h.lasthiotakis@utoronto.ca.

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A WORLD APART

One journalist's journey from East Africa to Canada

BY GEORGE KAGAME

Adam Giambrone, the influential and highly newsworthy chair of the Toronto Transit Commission is on Facebook, with more than 2,500 friends that I can fairly assume he has never met. It is also said that David Miller, the mayor of Toronto, has subscribed to Twitter, another of a myriad networking forums on the Internet.

So, as I sent my request to Giambrone to be his friend on Facebook with a personal note introducing myself as a community journalist, I never expected him to respond, but his response was swift. And since then, through his status updates, I get to know what this senior official is up to and can easily contact him for a comment should I have a story.

My interest with the two “big men” in the politics of Toronto comes from the fact that as a journalist in Africa, it’s only the views of the “big man” that normally makes the story. To a large extent the “big man” in Canada is most times willing to tell his story to a journalist as fast as it happens. It is a professional shock to discover that in the short time I have practised journalism here, I have been able to get access to the powerful councillors, bigger politicians, theatre directors and even — after accreditation — to cover the national assembly (House of Commons) proceedings.

I never expected that at one time I would talk to some of Canada’s most influential policy-makers without necessarily going through the African big-man process of scheduling an appointment to discuss a story that happened a week, sometimes a month, earlier.

The Internet, its fast speed and general availability in Canada, is one of the most enduring revelations that I have witnessed as a visiting journalist. However, it is not about the Internet or the politicians and social networking groups that I intend to write — although that is worth an effort — but about the differences I have come to experience as a practising journalist in East and Central Africa and here in Canada, expected and enormous as they are. I also want to address the opportunities and challenges in the two parallel societies.

The media is in most cases responsible for the way different societies perceive each other. It is with this in mind, perhaps, that African intellectuals and politicians like to moan about the unfairness of the western media in covering African issues, events and personalities.

The politicians and intellectuals say that the West and its media interest themselves in telling mainly of the gruesome and brutal side of Africa, that the West lumps the entire continent together as one and the same. However, the same Africans never do anything to help African media to tell the real stories of Africa; in most cases they contribute to thwarting the growth of the industry.

For us practising journalists on the continent writing or reporting for African media houses, many

times it is easy to get stories — bad or good — but to get people willing to speak on record is extremely difficult and the writer is in most cases not viewed separately from his profession. For example, in my own country if a journalist writes something with which a politician disagreed, the journalist is made to pay the worst of prices — his job, for example, or arrest, and in some cases, street beatings.

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Because in Africa there’s no culture of record keeping, the people involved in the business of records of what happens on the continent are historically unpopular with the powers that be. Normally the best African writers, journalists and historians who try to record the events and issues of Africa are chased away to foreign lands.

It could be unreasonable arrogance, big-man culture, ignorance, fear of upsetting those who appointed them (where I come from there is a very strict patriarchal system where most power is resident in the brain of only one person — the president) and incompetence, or a mixture, but it is true to state that politicians in my country are wary of journalists and don’t take them seriously at all.

Even a politician campaigning for votes in Africa will only meet a journalist at his own discretion, influencing local news at his convenience. Yet when a western journalist makes contact with the same politician, an appointment will be very swift. African

politicians are obsessed with speaking to western journalists, even when they always dismiss the stories these journalists post. The ones that are savvy enough to give press conferences do it to mock journalism.

The media in my country operate in a very unfriendly environment compared with other African countries. First, because of the top-down approach to journalism, the media in Rwanda, like the security organizations in the country, participated in organizing the 1994 genocide, which at its apex claimed close to one million innocent civilians. As a result, today journalists are viewed with a lot of skepticism by society at large and they face the brunt of genocide ideology still prevailing in the country. The way a journalist is treated by his sources depends on which ethnic side (tribe) he is suspected to belong to and also depending on which media house he reports for. It follows that a Tutsi or Hutu journalist will be

told different versions of the same story.

For all the advances registered in the country since the end of that conflict 15 years ago, the media remains the most maligned sector in Rwandan society and there’s still no will or concrete program by the government to help it advance. The government does not take the profession seriously enough while the public thinks that journalists are only singing the praises of the government. So it is not surprising, therefore, that when one excited journalist wrote that to be gay — which is still criminal in Rwanda — was equivalent to the crime of genocide, no one even debated this claim.

The media in Rwanda operate at an entirely different level from that in Canada (here the sources of news are very co-operative), but there are also some similarities, especially when it comes to asking to see a story in advance. However, the sources in Canada simply want a PDF file, in Rwanda they will order me to send the story before it is published.

That said, before I came to Canada I never had pride in the work I did as a journalist. The people who read the newspaper I wrote for were very few relative to the target market, and even the ones that read it never had any feedback, so there was no way of seeing the good, bad and ugly aspects of my work.

But it is entirely different here. There’s a serious reading culture. If you are a journalist you must definitely have to research your story before writing it because the audience is quite informed and quite active. In the subway you will observe that most passengers are reading something, from newspapers to novels, magazines, bibles or journals. Even children read here. As a journalist I’m always proud seeing people immersed in a newspaper, reading or filling out a crossword puzzle.

George Kagame is a Rwandan journalist living at New College while he participates in the Rwanda Project and works for Metroland newspapers.



MIKE CONSTABLE